

## **Oakland University Senate Minutes**

**September 14, 2017**

**Members present:** *Aloi, Arnold, Ball, Banes-Berceli, Baxa, Berven, D., Berven, K., Bowes, Chaney, Cheezum, Cheng, Cole, Corcoran, Corso, Craig, Debnath, Dereski, Didion, Doherty, Dulio, Dvir, Edrisinha, Eis, Epstein, Estes, Gooren, Guessous, Harbin, Herold, Jagtap, Knox, Latcha, Lentini, Long, Markel, Mishack, Mitchell, Olawoyn, Orzach, Parkash, Reger, Rigstad, Schmitz, Shablin, Stone, Tracy, Wallis, Weiter, Wells*

**Members absent:** *Chamra, Folberg, Giblin, Hranchook, Insko, Lauer, Law-Sullivan, Margerum-Leys, Mazzeo, Meehan, Megee, Navin, Roth, Shkoukani, Van Til*

Provost Lentini called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

### **Summary of Information and Action Items**

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Appointment of Senate Parliamentarian**

**Appointment of Senate Secretary**

**Elections Committee**

**President Pescovitz Welcoming Remarks**

**Provost's Updates**

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Senate membership**

**Research Committee Charge Update**

**Research Committee Membership Change**

Provost Lentini appointed John Corso as the Senate Parliamentarian, and Dikka Berven as the Senate Secretary for the upcoming year.

He then introduced President Ora Pescovitz to make her welcoming remarks to the first meeting of the Senate. She expressed her thanks to everyone at OU who had given her such a warm welcome to campus, and stated her readiness to delve into a dialogue with the OU community about progress and accomplishments to be made in the coming years. She stated her belief in an open and collaborative process and shared governance. She said that she believes in goal-setting to proceed with executing and implementing the Strategic Plan that was already in place prior to her arrival. She applauded the process by which the existing OU Strategic Plan was created and said that it is in sync with what she thinks should be the strategic plan for the university. For this reason, she wants to focus on how to accomplish the goals in that plan. She quoted the following words of Samuel Johnson: "Life affords no higher pleasure than that of surmounting difficulties." She stated that we will build the future on the successes of the past. She noted that in her first two months on campus, she found that the staff, the students and the faculty had exceeded her expectations. She stated her four goals which are (1) student success, which she noted is also the major focus and objective of the BOT as well, (2) scholarly activity

or research, (3) engagement, and (4) diversity, the latter goal being the one that she has added that was not in the Strategic Plan. She referred to Provost Lentini's message to the university in which he noted that the GPA for incoming students is 3.46 which is a 9.4% increase of incoming freshmen over last year, and she saw this as a measure of success because students are coming to the university better prepared than ever. She said that this means we must meet and exceed their learning needs and make sure that students make remarkable accomplishments. She affirmed that we need to make the education of students accessible and applicable to the real world so that they can make contributions to the society when they leave. She expressed her belief that we need to nurture their creativity and entrepreneurship and spark their passions. She asked everyone to read the Points of Pride newsletter that has been put out with the accomplishments of staff, students and faculty, and she added that these accomplishments should be celebrated. She emphasized that we must celebrate the research of the faculty because it makes a difference in how the students view us. She also observed that there are many opportunities available to engage in the community. She noted that OU has done admirable outreach in Pontiac, but we need to do more. She said that we need to pursue sources of funding for the outreach activities. She outlined her belief that every person should have a problem to solve, and then should work to solve it. Regarding the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, she said that Glenn McIntosh will report directly to her, which she said underlines how important the topic of diversity is to her. She declared her enthusiasm about what lies ahead, and her belief that Oakland University should be a beacon. She encouraged everyone to strive to reach great heights. She then opened the floor for questions. A graduate student stated that there are issues that need to be addressed regarding graduate students, and he said it is very important that their views should be heard. Ms. Pescovitz said that they would be heard.

#### **A. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Provost Lentini updated the Senate on a new minor in the Biology Department in Urban Agriculture and Agroecology.

Provost's Updates:

- Mr. Lentini said that he talks every day with President Pescovitz, and he said they share their priorities. He observed that we need to define what exactly is meant by student success because that is important to each of us, as well as to the financial success of the institution. He added that retention is an important factor in the competitive environment of today and we need to focus on keeping students at OU once they get here. He emphasized how important what happens in the classroom setting is to student success, and included the importance of the Gateway courses and the value of the advising process to student success overall as well. Concerning research and scholarship, he said he believes that we need to decide what kind of targeted research can be engaged in at OU, and noted that external funding is important, but so are other factors.
- He reminded Senate members that the results of the Climate Survey have been made available to the campus community, and he encouraged members to attend the Town Hall style meeting coming up on October 4 from 10:00-12:00.

#### **B. Approval of the Minutes for March 16, 2017 and April 20, 2017.**

The minutes of the meetings of March 16, 2017 and April 20, 2017 were approved without objection.

## **C. NEW BUSINESS**

### **I. Election of the Senate Steering committee 2017-2019**

The Elections Committee conducted the election of members to the Senate Steering Committee, the results of which are that the Senate Steering Committee will be composed of the following members for 2017-2019: Beth Kraemer (Library), Dan Aloï (SECS) , Karen Markel (SBA), Andrea Eis (CAS), Ron Tracy (SBA), and Mark Rigstad (CAS).

### **II. Motion to focus Research Committee efforts on faculty research and creative endeavor, change the membership and change the title of the Associate Vice President of Research to the Chief Research Officer (or designee)**

*MOVED that the Senate approve the revision of the Research Committee charge to remove responsibility for student grants, add creative endeavor to scholarly activities, change the membership, and change the title of the AVP Research to the Chief Research Officer (or designee) (Tracy, Aloï)*

David Stone asked for clarification on the wording of the motion. Ms. Rodriguez explained that the rationale for the change in membership is that the Grad Council members only serve for one year so there is a lot of turnover on the URC. Claudia (add last name) said that the Grad Council was informed only a week ago of the change in membership and she expressed concern that if a member of the Grad Council were no longer on the Research Committee this would be a problem because Grad Council issues are intrinsically related to research, and so she said that there should be a member on URC. She added that they would like to see at least one member of URC be from the Grad Council. Ms. Knudsen who is the new URC chair, said she wanted to note that removing a member from Grad Council does not preclude the possibility of improving communication with the Grad Council, and she pointed out that they are looking for a membership that can move from one year to another. Provost Lentini said this matter would be brought to the Senate Steering Committee for further discussion.

### **III. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees**

*MOVED that persons listed be appointed to the committees for positions designated (Eis, Corso)*

#### **Research Committee**

Mohammad Dadashzadeh (SBA) 2017-2019

Eddie Cheng (Mathematics and Statistics, CAS) 2017-2019

#### **Honorary Degree**

Mike Mitchell (CAS) 2017-2020 filling open position

#### **Teaching and Learning**

Robert Uptegraff (SBA) 2017-2020 replacing Jennifer Matthews

**Student Academic Support**

Mary Hartson (CAS) 2017-2018 replacing Hunter Vaughan for sabbatical

**University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction**

Todd Shackelford (CAS) Fall 2017 replacing Cristian Cantir for sabbatical

**D. GOOD AND WELFARE**

There were no items brought up for Good and Welfare.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven (Secretary)